



Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

Dear Newsletter Recipients,

We want to thank everyone who showed interest in attending and those who were able to make the May 15-16 White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Conference in Phoenix, AZ. Overall attendance was high and there were many workshops and events targeted to FBCOs on a variety of issues from capacity building to opportunities for funding to regulatory rules for FBCOs receiving government funds. Planning is in the works for the next conference, and we will keep you updated on the details as they are determined. For those of you who were unable to attend, please visit our web site as we will be posting some information from the event soon. Please find below some interesting information and resources for your review. I have also attached a wonderful summary highlighting the work of FBCO's as part of the Presidents Malaria Initiative that I hope you will enjoy.

Terri Hasdorff

Director

USAID CFBCI

New Resource on Working with the Global Fund

On May 9, 2007, Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH), Friends of the Global Fight, and DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa) invited FBOs to an event in Washington, DC with Dr. Michel Kazatchkine, the new Executive Director of The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Entitled "Together We Can Achieve More," the briefing coincided with the release of a new resource for FBOs wishing to work with the Global Fund.

Dr. Kazatchkine emphasized his desire to further engage the FBO community, recognizing that they are a critical component in reaching needy communities. Ray Martin of Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) spoke to opportunities and challenges FBOs have faced in seeking to work with the Global Fund and its Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs). Dr. Milton B. Amayun of World Vision detailed the structural and administrative criteria required for them to function as a Principle Recipient with the Global Fund. Karen Sichinga of the Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ) spoke of their experiences as one of the Principle Recipients in Zambia.

The new manual is intended to provide specific guidance on how FBOs can better engage with the Global Fund at all levels of its work. It provides a general overview of the Global Fund and its structure; suggests ways for engaging with the Fund at all levels; and offers recommendations on program design, the proposal process, and steps to achieving a successful proposal.

Global Fund websites:

- **The Manual** - http://theglobalfight.org/downloads/Results/Manual_Final.pdf
- **Friends page** - <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/partners/friends/>
- **News from our Partners** - <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/partners/news/>

- **Call for Proposals** - <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/apply/call7/documents/>
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Community and Faith-Based Groups Lend a Hand

Several households falling into poverty as a result of HIV/AIDS desperately need support systems. African communities have modified existing safety net mechanisms and pioneered new responses such as home-based care programmes, support groups and orphans and vulnerable children initiatives. But how long can self-resourced initiatives continue to function?

Safety nets protect people from the worst effects of poverty. They prevent poor households from making hasty decisions to sell productive assets and increase their chances of escaping destitution. Without state-run programmes, the extended family and local community are the best source of help for people facing unexpected income loss. Community safety nets:

- help households in greatest need
- respond quickly to crises
- are cost efficient, based on local needs and available resources
- involve the specialised knowledge of community members.

Although community safety nets are crucial for tackling poverty they are poorly understood. Though often seen as straightforward mechanisms with a clear definition, in reality they are diverse - ranging from savings associations, burial societies, cooperatives, philanthropic groups or individuals. Safety nets are constantly changing, accommodating changes within society.

Faith-based groups are an important component of safety nets and are sometimes the only source of support for extremely poor people:

- A UNICEF survey of religious congregations in ten different areas of Africa found that 97 percent are working with orphans and vulnerable children.
- Most churches in Namibia have an HIV/AIDS programme, often involving economic support, though few receive external assistance.
- Many responses go undocumented - a believer sharing her food with a neighbour dying in a mud hut, for example - perhaps unsurprising as they involve poor people serving the more needy ones.
- Some programmes involve volunteers from faith based groups caring for several people in ways that are uniquely in tune with people's needs, often in situations of extreme poverty.

Community groups provide vital economic support and carry a huge burden of care yet remain largely invisible to governments, non-government organisations and international bodies. They receive a very small portion of the huge amounts of aid provided annually for HIV/AIDS initiatives.

The economic burden of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is shifting with communities taking on increasing responsibilities. However, the much glorified 'resilience of the poor' has its limits. We cannot assume that poor people can continually adapt to changing conditions and still survive. Programmes based on the idea that poor people can support needier people are an unsustainable and unacceptable form of social welfare.

Strategic responses to strengthen community safety nets to prevent them from collapsing under the strain of people facing destitution are essential:

- Studies need to evaluate safety nets, understand the role of community groups and assess the value of transfers from community members to destitute households.
- Toolkits should be developed to assist agencies such as health sectors, for example, to map community safety nets.
- Model programmes that build skills and provide financial support to groups contributing to safety nets should be pioneered.

- Formal safety net programmes should build on existing community safety net mechanisms.

Source(s):

'Under the Radar – Community Safety Nets for Children Affected by HIV/AIDS in Poor Households in Sub-Saharan Africa', Report for UNRISD, by Geoff Foster, Jan 2005 (PDF)

id21 Research Highlight: 7 November 2006

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USAID Helps Shelter for Life International Give the Gift of Education for 20,000 Afghan Children!

Shelter For Life International (SFL) has directly impacted the lives of more 1 million people in Afghanistan since 2001 through its program activities and is helping to win the war against poverty, illiteracy, disease, and housing needs in Afghanistan! SFL's mission is to demonstrate God's love by enabling people affected by conflict and disaster to rebuild their communities and restore their lives in tangible ways.

SFL has successfully finished work on 32 new schools, funded by USAID, giving the gift of education to over 20,000 Afghan children. Randall Olson, the President and CEO of SFL states: "*There is, in fact, no greater gift the US government can give to the Afghan people than the gift of education.*" In addition to the schools, SFL built 20 clinics and according to USAID Afghanistan, on average almost 100 Afghans visit each of the clinics on a daily basis. Since 2001 SFL has completed over 25 million dollars in construction projects, including schools, clinics and houses destroyed by natural disasters.

Afghanistan has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world – only 36%. Only one in five women can read. The impact of literacy on the issue of health alone is staggering! With 165 deaths per one thousand live births, Afghanistan ranks only behind Angola as having the second highest infant mortality rate in the world.

By supporting the education, health, and housing sectors in a country once devastated by conflict, terrorism, and disaster, the American people and organizations like SFL have begun laying a foundation that promotes security, peace, and prosperity in Afghanistan. This year, thousands of children, including young girls, are able to attend school for the first time in their lives and will have an opportunity to receive an education that will impact the country for generations to come. As the literacy rate increases, many basic health problems can be addressed.

The fight against illiteracy, disease, and poverty in Afghanistan is far from over, but significant progress has been made since the fall of the Taliban. Last year, when the President of SFL visited project sites in the Lowgar Province, community leaders of one village pointed proudly to their newly completed school. For the last 20 years, the village has been without a school, and teachers were forced to hold classes under trees. Now they have a clean, safe learning environment.

See a video clip on the project and learn more at:

www.shelter.org

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